Food Production during Ninth Plan

24. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government plan to double food production during the Ninth Plan; and

(b) considering the fact that the average growth rate of food production over the last two decades has averaged only 2.7 per cent, how Government plan to achieve this target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) No, Sir. The Ninth Plan targets for production of foodgrains has been fixed at 234 million tonnes by the Planning Commission.

(b) To achieve the target, the Ninth Plan envisages adoption of regionally differentiated strategy based on agro-climatic resources and natural resources in different areas and for this purpose, a number of Centrally Sponsored/Central Sector Schemes are being implemented in various States.

Co-Operative Farming in Konkan Region

25. SHRI VED PRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a co-operative farming concept would be developed in Konkan region of Maharashtra with the assistance of National Dairy Development Board;

(b) if so, what is the time-frame and modalities of the project;

(c) whether the PSU, Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Ltd. would also be involved in the development of this project; and

(d) if so, the details of this involvement be furnished?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) No Sir. No proposal for development of cooperative farming